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Ministry of Education

NEW CRAWFORD BAY SCHOOL TO FEATURE GREEN DESIGN

NELSON – The Province has approved $12.7 million to build a new K-12 school in Crawford Bay that will boast a number of features that will lessen the school's impact on the environment, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced today.

"Our government is committed to environmental sustainability, and I'm pleased that will be reflected in Crawford Bay's new school," said Bond. "It is important for students and all our children to have a healthy environment for living, learning, working and recreation."

The new school's design has been finalized and the Kootenay Lake school board has committed to incorporating sustainable environmental aspects into the design. Specifically, the district is including environmentally sustainable features around site development, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

The new school will replace the existing Crawford Bay elementary-secondary school and will have room for 190 students, unchanged from the current capacity. Due to the existing school site's narrow and constricted lot size and limited field space, the school board purchased a new 14-acre site, which will provide ample space for the new school and two large outdoor playing fields.

Some features of the new school include a foods and sewing room, a science lab, an art room, a tech shop and a gymnasium. There are also discussions underway with the community to provide additional space for a community fitness room, a preschool and a multi-purpose room. The school is projected to open in September 2008.

"The school board is pleased to hear the new school has been approved," said board chair Bob Ewashen. "The board and the community are thrilled that we can move ahead with construction and the promise of a high-quality learning facility for our students and staff."

Since 2001, the Province has invested $12.8 million in school capital projects in the Kootenay Lake school district, including an addition and major renovations to Mt. Sentinel secondary and the replacement of Salmo secondary.

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During the same time, the Province has spent over $1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovation projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than $2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across British Columbia.

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